

Is successful assessment necessary for the award of ECTS credits?

The successful assessment of learning outcomes is the pre-condition for the award of ECTS credits. Statements of learning outcomes should therefore always be accompanied by clear and appropriate assessment criteria which make it possible to ascertain whether a learner has acquired the desired knowledge, understanding and competences.

The assessment methods required in order to achieve the expected learning outcomes must be defined by the relevant teaching staff.

The full number of credits is always awarded if a student achieves the passing grade. ECTS credits do not express how well a learner performed in satisfying the requirements for the award of credit. The quality of the learner's performance is expressed by the institutional grading system.

Do ECTS credits have to be allocated to compulsory work placements/internships?

If work placements/ internships are required to complete the programme (or a component) then ECTS credits must be allocated to the placement/internship. In this case, teaching staff must define the learning outcomes to be achieved through the placement/internship. Appropriate assessment methods and criteria must also be defined.

Credits for work placements can only be awarded when the learning outcomes have been achieved and successfully assessed.

Further information

The information included in this brochure is based on the ECTS Users Guide. Detailed information and guidance on allocating and awarding ECTS credits can be found in the Guide.

In addition, further information on the ECTS credit system can be found on the website of the IHU Quality Assurance Unit: qau.ihu.edu.gr



Contact us

Quality Assurance Unit
International Hellenic University

Email: qau@ihu.edu.gr
Tel: +30 2310 807 572
Fax: +30 2310 474 520

Where to find us

International Hellenic University
14th km Thessaloniki - Nea Moudania
57001 Thermi, Thessaloniki
Greece

Visit our Website
qau.ihu.edu.gr



Quality Assurance Unit

Allocating ECTS credits:
Key Features Explained!



What are ECTS credits?

ECTS credits are based on the **workload** students need in order to achieve expected learning outcomes. Credits are allocated to entire qualifications as well as to their educational components and can only be awarded following successful assessment. Credits cannot be awarded without **successful assessment** of relevant learning outcomes. Credits are always described by the level at which they are awarded based on the level of learning outcomes of the programme or component.

1 ECTS credit corresponds to **25 to 30 hours of workload**.

60 ECTS credits are attached to the workload of a **full-time academic year**.

30 ECTS credits are normally allocated to **a semester**.

20 ECTS credits are normally allocated to **a trimester**.

What are learning outcomes?

Learning outcomes describe what a learner is expected to know, understand and is able to do upon successful completion of a learning process. In ECTS, the formulation of learning outcomes is the basis for the estimation of workload and therefore for credit allocation.

Learning outcomes relate to level descriptors in national and European qualifications frameworks. The Dublin Descriptors offer generic statements of typical expectations of achievements and abilities associated with qualifications that represent each Bologna cycle (first, second and third cycle respectively).

What is student workload?

Workload indicates the time students typically need to complete all learning activities (self-study, lectures, seminars, projects, practical work, traineeships, educational visits, preparation for assessment and the time necessary for the assessment etc.). The estimation of workload should be regularly refined through monitoring and student feedback.

How do I calculate ECTS credits?

- 1** Define the expected learning outcomes. The learning outcomes are the basis for choosing appropriate learning activities and for a consistent estimation of relevant workload.
- 2** Choose appropriate learning activities which will allow learners to achieve the desired learning outcomes.
- 3** Estimate the hours of workload required to achieve the learning outcomes of each learning activity.
- 4** Sum the total hours of workload for all activities.
- 5** Calculate the relevant ECTS credits by taking into account the total hours of workload and the key ECTS feature that 1 ECTS credit corresponds to 25 to 30 hours of workload.

How do I estimate student workload?

Typically, the estimated workload will result from the sum of:

- The contact hours for the educational component.
- The time spent in individual or group work required to successfully complete the educational component.
- The time required to prepare for and undergo the assessment procedures (e.g exams).
- The time required for any obligatory placements/internships.